

POPS Criteria for POAC Anaesthetic Review

These criteria are intended to outline the common indications that will require input from an Anaesthetist in POAC, after a patient has been reviewed by POPS.

Co-morbidities or Indications Requiring Referral

1. Severe Cardiac Disease (but not Pulmonary Hypertension or Congenital Heart Disease, which should be referred to the respective specialist MDTs): severe Heart Failure, severe Aortic Stenosis, severe cardiomyopathy
2. Severe Respiratory Disease: e.g. Poorly controlled Asthma, Severe COPD/Bronchiectasis (FEV1 <1), Pneumonectomy
3. Previous difficult intubation: e.g. required awake fiberoptic intubation or patient informed or airway complications
4. Abnormal Head and Neck or Airway Anatomy: examples include significantly reduced mouth opening, current or previous head and neck cancers involving surgery or radiotherapy (and NOT booked for head and neck surgery)
5. Abnormal Spinal Anatomy: Severe Kyphoscoliosis, Congenital spinal deformities, significantly limited neck extension (and NOT undergoing surgery for spinal correction or head and neck surgery)
6. Morbid Obesity: BMI > 40 with cardiac or respiratory co-morbidities or BMI > 50
7. Psychiatric Disease: severe dementia or severe mental health problems that are likely require planning for anaesthetic management.

Anaesthesia Related Issues

1. Previous awareness under GA: if subsequent successful GA, no need to refer. If no subsequent GA, will need to refer.
2. Suxemethanium Apnoea/Malignant Hyperpyrexia: confirm if patient tested, if positive, needs referral. If negative, no need. If awaiting testing elective surgery P3-4 should be postponed.
3. Previous Anaesthetics: cardiac arrests, +ve testing for reactions to Anaesthetics (if Family member tests +ve, but patient -ve, no need for a referral), other significant complications

Co-morbidities and Indications NOT requiring referral

1. Obstructive Sleep Apnoea
2. "Slow to wake" or "Low Blood Pressure" or "cold after anaesthetic": or "sick after anaesthetic" (unless required unplanned admission to hospital or ICU, or further investigation)